



City of Asheville, NC

Finance Department

Minutes

Finance Committee
1:30 p.m., March 15, 2011
Planning Conference Room, 5th floor, City Hall

Present: Committee: Councilman Bill Russell (Chair), Councilman Cecil Bothwell, Councilwoman Esther Manheimer

Staff: Lauren Bradley, Kai Nelson, Chief Steve Burnette, Tony McDowell, Amy Patterson, Ken Putnam, Steve Shoaf, Robert Griffin, Judy Daniels, Cheryl Heywood, John Sanchez, James Lee

- Approval of 3/8/2011 Minutes
 - Councilwoman Manheimer moved to approve the 3/8/11 minutes; this motion was seconded by Councilman Bothwell, and unanimously approved.
- Purchasing and Contracting Policy (Lauren Bradley)
 - Contract Authority
 - Lauren told the committee that if approved, the implementation of the revisions will streamline efficiencies by reducing turn around time, and would allow our internal process for approval authority to align with the State of NC public contracting statutes.
 - The committee agreed with staff recommendation for this policy change.
 - This item will move forward to the full council meeting scheduled for 3/22/11.
 - Living Wage Provision
 - Lauren stated that in 2007, Council approved a living wage for all full and part time City of Asheville employees. Currently, the City meets the living wage requirements for full time employees. Staff recommends Council adopt the revised living wage amount of \$11.35 (without health insurance) and \$9.85 (with health insurance) for all City employees for fiscal year 2011-2012.

- Lauren explained that at the direction of Council, staff did extensive research on the options for extending living wage to vendors who do business with the City. Due to the fact that general services contracts are the only area that is not governed by NC general statutes, and therefore is an allowable change, staff recommends implementing a phased in approach for general services contracts only.
- Councilman Russell stated that he does not support the living wage provision for vendors.
- This item will move forward to the full council meeting scheduled for 3/22/11.
- Fees and Charges (Lauren Bradley)
 - Parking Services Fund
 - Parking Garage Monthly Rate
 - Staff proposed the following rate increases:
 - Civic Center Garage
 - Hourly Rate: 50 cents to 75 cents per hour
 - Monthly Rate: \$70.00 to \$80.00
 - Monthly discounted rates for Vanderbilt Apartment residents: \$35.00 to \$40.00 per month
 - Monthly discounted rates for Battery Park Apartment residents: \$0 to \$40.00 per month
 - Rankin and Wall Street garages:
 - Special events-single occurrence: \$6.00 to \$7.00
 - Reserved Parking in Surface Parking Lots
 - \$.0 to \$27.50 per month
 - Staff proposed the following rate decreases:
 - Wall Street and Rankin Avenue garages
 - Special events-multi day events: \$6.00 to \$500.
 - The proposed changes would bring in additional revenue in the amount of \$68,860
 - Domestic Partner Registry
 - Lauren explained that beginning in May the City Clerk would administer the domestic partner registry.
 - Councilman Russell agreed with staff recommendation for domestic registry of \$50.00 for residents and \$75.00 for non-residents. Councilman Bothwell and Councilwoman Manheimer wanted to change the proposed rate from \$50.00 to \$75.00 for residents and from \$75.00 to \$100.00 for non-residents.

- Water Rate Study (Steve Shoaf)
 - Steve explained that proposed changes in fee structure would make the rate structure equitable and protect the small business and residential customer and generate enough revenue to operate the water utility.
 - Staff proposed holding the residential rate at the current level and making the following rate changes for fiscal year 2011-2012:
 - Adjust multifamily from 18% to 15% discount
 - Adjust commercial (small) from 16% to 15% discount
 - Adjust commercial (large) from 63% discount to 60% discount
- Other Items (Lauren Bradley)
 - Lauren stated that the following items will be on the agenda for the next scheduled finance committee meeting to be held on 3/22/11, and will go to full council for review on 4/12/11.
 1. Enterprise Funds
 2. Outside Agencies Update